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ABSTRACT

Visualizing during reading, choosing just-right books, using a table of contents, and peer editing are strategies used by skilled readers and writers. This book contends that there is no better way to teach them than through minilessons. Minilessons provide strategic, focused instructions that children can put to immediate use. The book offers the definitive guide to conducting minilessons across the literacy spectrum. It covers oral reading, guided reading, independent reading, and writing, providing more than 170 of the best minilessons for understanding individual words and whole texts, fiction and nonfiction. The book guides teachers through a process for gradually handing over responsibility to their students: Demonstration (it is important to communicate the lesson's goal to students); Guided and Independent Practice (gives students the chance to try the strategy, perhaps in pairs, small groups, or teams, with the teacher as coach); and Reflection (students must think about the strategy, to promote its long-term use). Chapters in the book are: (1) Getting Started with Minilessons; (2) Reading Strategies Alive! Knowing What to Do and When to Do it; (3) Showtime! A Celebration of Oral Reading; (4) Phonemic Awareness: Using Our Ears to Make Sense of Sounds; (5) Building Knowledge of Print: Sounds, Symbols, and Sight Words in Action; (6) Minilessons for Guided Reading and Literature Discussion; (7) Independent Reading: Personalizing the Learning in Books I Choose Myself; (8) Informational Text: Strategies for Success in All Content Areas; and (9) Writing: Collecting My Thoughts, Telling My Stories, Moving Forward as a Writer. Contains many reproducibles and a 71-item bibliography. (NKA)

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